



## **Arizona League of Cities and Towns**

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you.

Mayor Dunn, Mayor Walkup, Mayor Scruggs, other members of the Executive Committee, general members, and guests -- thank you for that warm welcome.

I'm grateful for this opportunity to -- first -- say THANK YOU to the League -- and to those of you who supported Proposition 100 ...

THANK YOU -- to those who did not waver ...

THANK YOU -- to those who did not hesitate ...

THANK YOU -- to those of you who were courageous and stood up early -- even knowing that you were forgoing the local government portion of the temporary tax.

... TWO THIRDS of the voters agreed with us!

And, for those of you who did NOT support us ... and for those of you who had NO position, well, I have come here today to say ... you are forgiven.

But, seriously, I do believe the Arizona Comeback started in earnest on May 18<sup>th</sup> when voters overwhelmingly approved the measure, telling us they understood the depth of the financial crisis in Arizona.

They told us they approved Proposition 100 for our educational system, for our universities and community colleges, for our public safety and for our most vulnerable.

I think we all recognize that Proposition 100 isn't a cure-all. Though we've streamlined and reduced the size of government more than at any time before in state history, we're facing a one billion dollar deficit going into fiscal year 2012, which without new action will continue to grow in FY 2013.

You understand hard times.

And, so do I:

-- I recognize there have been formula-driven reductions in your shared revenues.

-- I understand the important services local governments deliver, and the fiscal challenges you face.

-- And, I appreciate the cuts you've already made to your own city budgets, requiring very tough and sometimes painful local decisions.

The truth is, we're partners in the "tough-decision-making" business, and there can be no denying our tough decisions are yielding positive results. From my first days in office as Governor, I've been demanding that Washington fulfill its primary obligation to the citizens of our state:

Secure our southern border, enhance the rule of law, and protect Arizonans -- and ALL Americans -- from violence committed by organized crime syndicates, out-of-control drug cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals.

Legislation I signed into law -- Senate Bill 1070 -- is supported by statewide law enforcement organizations, provides local sworn officers the same legal tools provided to federal authorities and their local law enforcement partners for many years.

I then signed HB 2162 to help mitigate some of YOUR concerns by adding a "loser pays" provision to the private right of action and tightening up the definition of "public benefits," so cities can more easily manage the new immigration laws.

In addition, HB 2162 specifically addressed legal questions raised by some who expressed fears that the original law would somehow allow or lead to racial profiling. The new amendments made it crystal clear and undeniable that racial profiling is illegal, and will not be tolerated in Arizona.

I also want to commend Arizona's cities, for denouncing the boycotts other cities have tried to engage in ...

I'm deeply disappointed that anyone --ARIZONANS in particular -- would advocate economic penalties against our state.

How could punishing families and businesses large and small --- particularly the 200,000 hard-working families involved in the tourism industry --- be a solution or be viewed as constructive?

I will defend HB1070 against every assault – including attacks by the Obama administration -- and I will NOT accept the notion that border security is a responsibility of the Border States.

Meanwhile, we've permanently reduced state general fund spending by over two point two billion dollars and the state employee count by more than 10 percent.

We've created a new attitude in state government – one which recognizes that only the PRIVATE sector can create meaningful jobs.

Quite a novel concept, isn't it?

When it comes to encouraging job creation, I'm committed to preparing for the future with new ideas and innovation.

That's why, by Executive Order, on June 29<sup>th</sup> I established the Arizona Commerce Authority and a private-sector leadership board focused on growing and diversifying Arizona's economy and creating quality jobs – including jobs in rural Arizona. This quasi-public Authority replaces the old Commerce Department. We're introducing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century approach to advance Arizona's economy.

This new Authority is coordinating and integrating the efforts of key partners like Science Foundation Arizona -- our universities -- regional economic development groups -- and local communities – all working together to secure success for the State of Arizona.

Your cities are our partners in attracting business to our great state.

I've committed 10 million dollars to advance its mission through its approach to economic development.

Meanwhile, we've attracted over one billion dollars in new capital investment.

And you've heard me say that since becoming Governor, I've helped create 25-hundred jobs.

Well, in the past six weeks – with my meetings with corporate leaders – we've more than DOUBLED that number.

And there's more coming – my team at the Commerce Authority is finalizing details with several more companies and we will be announcing even more jobs for Arizonans in the coming weeks.

Businesses across ALL sectors have added 25-thousand jobs since the job loss peak of December 2009. For example:

- eBay just announced its decision to expand its presence in Arizona,

- Neptune Orient Lines moved here from Oakland, California – and international shipments are being coordinated right here in the southwest – the opportunities are incredible and businesses are recognizing it in new, innovative ways.

- Just two weeks ago, Mayor Truitt and I announced Spanish solar manufacturer Rioglass Solar will locate to Surprise and create jobs for Arizonans.

The company produces curved glass sheets used in solar technology, adding to the significant progress Arizona is making to become a global leader in the renewable energy sector.

In fact, “Business Facilities” a national publication and location advisor for site selection -- for both solar energy manufacturing and the alternative energy industry – has now ranked Arizona as the “solar king.”

It noted Arizona offers “the highest solar power potential in the nation, and the state is by far the leading producer of equipment to capture these rays.”

This affirms Arizona's progressive renewable energy standards and solar policies for both utility-scale and rooftop installations, the supportive business climate, and the availability of local manufacturing-ready facilities.

It also follows our efforts to attract renewable energy projects to Arizona ----

- Suntech Power Holdings chose Goodyear for the Chinese-based company's first U.S. manufacturing plant.

- Tower Automotive and Linamar -- which are suppliers for Stirling Energy System's SunCatcher dishes – are locating to Arizona.

And Tucson is already home to some of the world's largest photovoltaic manufacturers, including Schletter, Global Solar Energy, and SOLON.

A particular interest of mine is to expand university and private incubator/accelerator programs to develop more Arizona-grown businesses.

Ventana Medical Systems -- headquartered in Oro Valley -- is now one of the world's leading developers and manufacturers of medical diagnostic instruments and re-agent systems.

And, the Tucson area now is developing a biomedical cluster.

Also, our Aerospace and Defense industry remains critical to the state economy which is why we celebrate the recent federal contracts awarded to Boeing and the selection of Luke Air Force Base as a preferred training site for the F-35 squadrons.

And we believe that Tucson International Airport will ultimately prevail in the future for the F-35 mission, especially with its continued strength in the training of foreign pilots in the F-16.

I cannot over emphasize how important the 162nd Fighter Wing, Marine Corps Station Yuma, and Luke AFB are to the vitality of the Arizona Comeback, as are Arizona's other vital military installations.

Each installation brings sizable economic impact within its own community.

More importantly, the military and civilian personnel who serve our nation every day -- as well as their families -- provide tremendous sacrifice and deserve our thanks for a courageous commitment to our security.

Because we can't afford to have jobs languish — or worse, perish — in an endless permitting bottleneck, I launched a Jobs Action Team — including Commerce -- State Land -- the Departments of Environmental Quality and Revenue — directing them to work together to cut through red tape — and the green tape -- and speed what has been a slow government process.

My Commission on Privatization and Efficiency (COPE), established in January of this year, is examining ways to streamline state government operations, soliciting ideas from the private sector, policy experts, and citizens.

We're already laser-focused on getting Arizona back on track -- bolstering our base industries -- advancing our competitive position in the global economy.

Bottom line: When it comes to the business operating environment, and a quality workforce — ARIZONA WINS.

That is the case now, and it is my intent to continue improving the business operating environment in my NEXT term.

... We've come SO FAR in the last 600 days.

We've changed everything ...

Arizona is MOVING again.

I believe our glorious state has been REVIVED.

I believe it has been RENEWED.

I believe faith in OURSELVES is being RESTORED.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "I like the dreams of the future -- better than the history of the past."

I like those dreams, too -- and the sense that a wonderful power of achievement and CONFIDENCE -- is stirring again in Arizona.

It belongs to our future -- to our children; that's why we intend to nourish it and carefully tend to the fruits that it promises.

God bless you and your families, and may God bless Arizona -- and each and every one of your cities and towns -- and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.